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Saigon 5065

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6321
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INFO CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2440

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REVIEWED BY Joan Dzubow DATE 12/23/81
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5065

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. THICH TAM CHAUTELEPHONED EMBOFF SEPT 6 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER RESULTS OF SENATE ELECTIONS, STATING THAT SINCE SOUTH VIET NAM 80 PCT BUDDHIST, SENATE ELECTIONS SHOULD REFLECT THIS FACT. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT CATHOLICS HEAD FOUR OF SENATE LISTS NOW LEADING IN VOTE COUNT. HE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY PEOPLE BEINGERECTED SENATE ARE CATHOLICS AND CAN LAO (LATTER A CLEAR REFERENCE TO LIST NO 3 OF TRAN VAN LAM, WHO IS CATHOLIC AND WHO HAS FOUR FORMER CAN LAO MEMBERS ON HIS LIST). TAM CHAU REQUESTED EMBOFF VISIT HIM TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER.

(1)

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 5 6 C O N F I D E N T I A L

2. TWO EMBOFFS VISITED TAM CHAU AFTERNOON OF SEPT 6, OUND SO THAI NGUEYN (LIST NO 12) AND MOST OF HIS LIST WIT TAM

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CHAU. CONVERSATION COVERED MUCH THE SAME GROUND AS PREVIOUS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH TAM CHAU. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT ELECTION RESULTS NOT YET DEFINITIVE, THAT NO ONE YET KNOWS WHO WONOR LOST, THAT NOT REALLY CORRECT TO SAY THAT CATHOLICS ISTS BEING ELECTED, SINCE BUDDHISTS AND OTHERS ARE INCLUDED IN LISTS HEADED BY CATHOLICS. SON THAI NGUYEN COUNTERED THAT THERE ARE BUDDHISTS AND BUDDHISTS AND INTIMATED THAT ONLY REALLY BUDDHISTS ARE THOSE ON BUDDHIST LIST, SUCH AS HIS. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT THAT ELECTIONS CONDUCTED UNDER LAW AND THAT EMBASSY NOT IN POSITION TO INTERFERE WITH CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE PROVISIONS FOR FILING COMPLAINTS WITH ELECTION COMMISSION. TAM CHAU GAVE EMBOFFS COPY OF COMPLAINT SENT SEPT 5 TO CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION, ALLEGING INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF BALLOTS PROVIDED FOR LIST 12 AT NUMBER OF POLLING PLACES IN SAIGON AND OTHER PLACES.

3. TAM CHAU EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ELECTION OF THIEU AND KY, TOOK RELAXED ATTITUDE WHILE SON THAI NGUYEN AND

PAGE 3 UMJIR 5056 C O N F I D E N T I A L
HIS COLLEAGUES EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION. BELIEVE TAM CHAU AND PERHAPS SON THAI NGUYEN AS WELL SIMPLY WANTED EMBASSY TO KNOW THEY NOT FULLY SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME OF SENATE ELECTIONS. THEY HAVE TAKEN ACTION PROVIDED N ELECTION LAW TO VOICE THEIR COMPLAINTS OFFICIALLY. THEY SAID SEVERAL TIMES THEY WILL TAKE NO ILLEGAL ACTIONS SUCH AS ORGANIZING DEMONSTRATIONS.

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